

REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

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exert their actions in the patient, producing the varying manifestations of the acute allergic reaction. The role of histamine, 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin), acetylcholine, slow-reacting substances of anaphylaxis, and bradykinin is discussed, and an attempt is made to assess their importance. Heparin release is probably of significance only in anaphylaxis in the dog.

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ALCIAN GREEN: A ROUTINE STAIN FOR MUCINS—F. A. Putt and P. B. Hukill, *Arch. Path.*, 74:169 (Aug.) 1962.

Alcian green is a specific stain for acid mucopolysaccharides. The simplicity of its application recommends it as a preferred method for epithelial and connective tissue mucins in routine pathologic material. Two staining techniques are described, one involving Kernechtrot and metanil yellow as counterstain, the other involving the Verhoeff-van Gieson elastic tissue method as counterstain. The second method is useful in studying tumors, allowing the evaluation of mucus production and vascular invasion in the same section.

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HISTOLOGICAL STUDY OF WOUND WASHINGS FOR TUMOR CELLS—M. Weinlos, G. R. Macdonald, and J. D. Taylor, *Canad. J. Surg.*, 5:278 (July) 1962.

Wound washes from 169 patients were obtained either at operation or at autopsy and examined for tumor cells on a double blind basis. The cellular material was stained with hematoxylin-eosin and examined by a pathologist. Tumor cells were found from (1) 25 per cent of patients with cancer and (2) 13 per cent of patients where cancer was neither suspected nor subsequently found. Washes from Group 2, where cells that appeared malignant were detected,

were termed "false positives." Although tumor cells can be isolated from wound beds, this study emphasizes the need for better cytological techniques for the identification of malignant cells.

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DETRUSOR HYPERTROPHY: ROENTGENOGRAPHIC DETECTION OF EARLY BLADDER NECK OBSTRUCTION—J. Edeken, G. Strong, and A. Khajavi, *Radiology*, 79:88 (July) 1962.

A soft-tissue shadow, surrounding the contrast-filled bladder, was observed during intravenous urography in 40 of 57 patients with proved bladder-neck obstruction. This finding, representing compensatory hypertrophy of the detrusor muscle, is best demonstrated before decompensation has occurred. The sign is usually lost when large amounts of residual urine stretch and thin the previously hypertrophied bladder wall. The shadow has not been observed in normal subjects.

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SIMPLE GASTRIC BIOPSY: EXPERIENCE WITH CROSBY-KUGLER CAPSULE—M. H. Floch and T. W. Sheehy, *Gastroenterology*, 43:32 (July) 1962.

Using the Crosby-Kugler capsule, 61 gastric biopsies were performed on 40 patients. The procedure described yielded diagnostic tissue in all but one instance. No episode of perforation or bleeding was encountered by serial clinical, hematological, or stool guaiac studies. The technique is safe and rapid and causes little discomfort to the patient.

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URINARY WHITE CELL EXCRETION—P. J. Little, *Lancet* 1:1149 (June 2) 1962.

The urinary white cell excretion rate has been measured in 50 women using a form of mid-stream sampling. The

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